REMARKS

Entry of the present preliminary amendment is respectfully requested, claims 1-4 have been canceled without prejudice, claims 5-6 and 9-11 have been amended and claims 12-25 have been added.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 5-25 are allowable as they include similar patantable features as in the claims of the parent application Serial No. 09/310,087, which has issued as US Patent No. 6,363,341 B1. For example, claim 12 contains features similar to claim 6 of US 6,363,341 B1; claim 16 contains features similar to claim 5 of US 6,363,341 B1; and dependent claims 13-15, 17-19, 20-22 and 23-25 are similar to dependent claims 2-4 of US 6,363,341 B1.

An early action on the merits is respectfully solicited. If any informalities remain, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite allowance.

PATENT Serial No. 10/043,517 Second Preliminary Amendment

Please charge any fee deficiencies and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

Dicran Halajian, Reg. 38,7

Attorney

(914) 333-9607 March 30, 2005

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